

**CITY OF NORWALK
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MAY 24, 2017
NORWALK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
141 EAST AVENUE
NORWALK, CT**

ATTENDANCE: David Westmoreland, Chair; Suzanne Betts; Eric Chandler;
Holly Cuzzone; Dana Laird; Tom Livingston;
Lisa Wilson Grant (by phone)

OTHERS: Susan Gilgore, Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum;
Diane Jellerette, Norwalk Historical Society

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Westmoreland called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: April 26, 2017

- ** **MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
- ** **MR. CHANDLER SECONDED**
- ** **MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MS. BETTS AND MS. CUZZONE)**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present this evening.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Westmoreland thanked Ms. Betts for steering the Commissioners through the State grant application process. He said they are requesting \$20,000 no match grant. This evening the Commissioners are voting on a Memorandum of Agreement for the Department of Transportation.

REPORTS – BOARDS

A. Norwalk Historical Society

Ms. Jellerette reported that their construction is continuing. The gazebo was moved to the back. The Historical Commission and the Historical Society were mentioned in the new issue of *Connecticut Explored* magazine.

The Historical Society hosted a few events recently and they went very well. Ms. Jellerette announced upcoming events, including their participation in the June 10th Connecticut Open House, where they will do an entire afternoon of events.

B. Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum

Ms. Gilgore's report dated May 24, 2017 is as follows:

Yesterday, the Mansion participated in Sen. Duffs *Norwalk Day*, a terrific event where all of us non-profits in Norwalk met with legislators and highlighted the great programs that we are offering to our community.

We compared tours in April with last year's and we are proud to report that we have seen a substantial growth of 28%. Group tours and student tours have been particularly successful and we have many bookings scheduled throughout the year.

In June, we are offering discounted mini-tours almost every weekend, in conjunction with **Pride in the Park** and **CT Open House Day**, the **Car Show**, and the **Arts Festival**. We are also joining the City of Norwalk's **Sound of Summer** in an effort to incentivize traffic to non-profits and businesses.

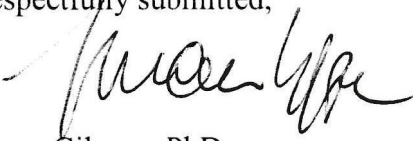
We have concerns regarding the financial impact that the ADA construction will have on our ability to attract and hold licensing events; although we are thrilled that this vital work will take place and that we will see the completion of the ADA upgrades. We would like an update of the start date of construction, when possible. We thank the Norwalk Historical Commission and Chairman David Westmoreland for overseeing this important project.

Chairman of the Board Patsy Brescia said that she is currently cataloging and arranging the fences that may be installed on the perimeter of the Mansion in the future.

Upcoming programs will include a talk by **Food Historian Sarah Wassberg**, a **Naturalization Ceremony**, and the **Old-fashioned Flea Market**.

We thank you for all your support.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Gilgore, PhD
Executive Director

REPORTS

A. Buildings

Mr. Westmoreland reported that they finished repainting the Gate Lodge, Laundry Building and Carriage House. When the concrete was poured for the base of the gazebo, the tests for the steps came back significantly below where they should be; however, he learned yesterday, that the people doing the testing made a mistake and the concrete is ok.

Power will be brought out to the gazebo shortly.

The East Norwalk Library notified Mr. Westmoreland that they have boxes of documents related to the Little Red School House and the Fitch House. A qualified firm is doing the historical reconstruction report for the Little Red School House and the Fitch House.

B. Cemeteries

Ms. Cuzzone distributed a draft brochure *Take a Walking Tour of Pine Island Cemetery* and asked for input from the Commissioners.

Ms. Cuzzone reported that test cores taken at the East Norwalk side of the WALK Bridge show four undisturbed areas. Mr. Chandler said he remembers someone coming down from the State a few years ago to do a GPR at Pine Island Cemetery.

C. Finance

Ms. Betts reported that Mr. Westmoreland is making essential purchases.

OLD BUSINESS

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AMONG THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CONNECTICUT STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER REGARDING THE WALK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT, STATE PROJECT 301-76. AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT

THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AMONG THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CONNECTICUT STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER REGARDING THE CP-243 UNIVERSAL INTERLOCKING PROJECT NORWALK AND WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT STATE PROJECT 0301-0181 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT

THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AMONG THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CONNECTICUT STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER REGARDING THE DANBURY BRANCH IMPROVEMENTS AT DOCK YARD PROJECT NORWALK, CONNECTICUT STATE PROJECT 0301-0180 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT

**** MS. CUZZONE SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Cuzzone said Mr. Bellantoni asked for an update on Crescent Street. Mr. Westmoreland said they are waiting for a final approval on the mall; however, that has not yet taken place. He said he would like the results of the State's GPR work before doing anything else.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. CHANDLER MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MR. LIVINGSTON SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services